

§ 279.7

7 CFR Ch. II (1–1–00 Edition)

§ 279.7 Action upon receipt of a request for review.

(a) *Holding action.* Upon receipt of a request for review of administrative action, the review officer shall notify the appropriate FNS regional office, in writing, of the action under review, and shall direct that the administrative action be held in abeyance until the review officer has made a determination. However, in cases of permanent disqualification under § 278.6(e)(1) of this chapter, the administrative action shall not be held in abeyance pending such a review determination. If the disqualification is reversed through administrative or judicial review, the Secretary shall not be held liable for the value of any sales lost during the disqualification period. If the administrative action in question involves a denial of approval of an application to participate in the program, a denial of a claim brought by a firm against FNS, or the forfeiture of a collateral bond, the review officer shall direct that the firm not be approved for participation, not be paid any part of the disputed claim, or not be reimbursed for any bond forfeiture, until the review officer has made a determination. In any case, notice to the appropriate FNS office shall be accompanied by a copy of the request filed by the firm.

(b) *Filing supporting information.* If the request filed by the firm includes a request for an opportunity to file written information in support of its position at a later date, the administrative review officer shall promptly notify the firm of the date by which the information shall be filed. If the firm fails to file any information in support of its position by the designated date, the information submitted with the original request shall be considered to be the only information submitted by the firm. In that case, if no information in support of the firm's position was submitted with the original request, the action of the appropriate FNS office shall be final.

(c) *Failure to meet with review officer.* If the firm filing the request for review asks to appear before the administrative review officer in person, the review officer shall promptly notify the firm of the date, time and place set for

the appearance. If the firm fails to appear before the administrative review officer as specified, any written information timely submitted in accordance with this section shall be considered to be the only information submitted by the firm.

(d) *Basis for regional office determination.* The administrative review officer shall require the appropriate FNS regional office to promptly submit, in writing, all information which was the basis for the administrative action for which the review has been requested.

[Amdt. 136, 43 FR 43279, Sept. 22, 1978, as amended by Amdt. 236, 49 FR 22059, May 25, 1984; Amdt. 258, 49 FR 28393, July 12, 1984; 49 FR 29769, July 24, 1984; Amdt. 356, 59 FR 29714, June 9, 1994; 64 FR 23174, Apr. 30, 1999]

§ 279.8 Determination of the administrative review officer.

(a) *Basis for review officer determination.* The administrative review officer shall make a determination based upon:

(1) The information submitted by the appropriate FNS office;

(2) Information submitted by the firm in support of its position; and

(3) Any additional information, in writing, obtained by the review officer from any other person having relevant information.

(b) *Review of denial of application or withdrawal of approval.* In the case of a request for review of a denial of an application or withdrawal of approval to participate in the program, the determination of the administrative review officer shall sustain the action under review or shall direct that the firm be approved for participation.

(c) *Review of disqualification or civil money penalty or fine.* In the case of a request for review of action disqualifying a firm from participation in the program or assessing a civil money penalty or fine against the firm, the determination of the administrative review officer shall sustain the action under review or specify a shorter period of disqualification or a reduced civil money penalty or fine, direct that an official warning letter be issued to the firm in lieu of any period of disqualification or civil money penalty or fine, or direct that no administrative